

### **Amendments to the Specification:**

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 13 to read as follows:

Further, in Example 1, the difference between the absorbance of the sample High and that of the sample Low was greater than that in the Comparative Example. The sample High had a hemoglobin concentration equal to the sample Low but had a higher HbA1c concentration than the sample Low. In other words, because of a greater glycated amount of hemoglobin, the sample High theoretically had an absorbance greater than the sample Low in proportion to the HbA1c concentration. However, in the Comparative Example, since the protease treatment was carried out in the absence of the sulfonic acid compound, the glycated hemoglobin was difficult to degrade. Therefore, even though the sample High and the sample Low had different HbA1c concentrations, their difference in absorbance was as small as ~~[[7.1]]~~ 0.7 mAbs. On the other hand, in the Example where the protease treatment was carried out in the presence of the sulfonic acid compound, the difference between the absorbance of the sample High and that of the sample Low increased to about ~~twice to three times~~ twenty times to thirty times that in the Comparative Example. This also shows that, for the same reason as above, the method according to Example 1 improved the sensitivity and accuracy of measurement.